

REMARKS

By the above amendments, Applicants have revised the title to make it more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed, as requested by the Examiner in paragraph 16 of the Action.

Also, Applicants have revised pages 1, 3 and 7 to fill in the blank spaces previously existing on those pages as requested by the Examiner in paragraph 18 of the Office Action.

By the above amendments, Applicants are also correcting a number of informalities noted during a recent review of the application and during the preparation of formal drawings. Applicants are further submitting herewith a Letter to the Official Draftsperson showing in red proposed changes to be made to the drawings to correct informalities noted in the informal drawings as filed. At the proper time, Applicants will submit a set of formal drawings including the changes noted on the attached red-marked copies of the drawings provided the corrections are approved by the Official Draftsperson.

In regard to the rejection of claims 9-16, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai et al (4977473) in view of Bryant (4312696), as stated in paragraph 20 of the Office Action, Applicants have carefully considered the applied references and the arguments made by the Examiner and as a result have amended main independent claim 9, and have submitted new claim 17, to more clearly set forth the invention and to more distinctly distinguish the invention from the applied references. In view of these changes, it is believed that all of claims 9-17 now clearly

patentably distinguish over the references and favorable consideration of them is respectfully requested in the light of the following comments.

The patent to Arai et al does not, as does the present invention, concern the construction of a drum assembly for an internal drum imaging device, but instead concerns a helical scan type of magnetic recording/reproduction apparatus, such as found in a video tape recorder, and more particularly concerns the shape of, or features to be formed on, the so-called "lower cylinder" of a two cylinder guide drum assembly used in guiding a magnetic recording tape through the recording/reproduction apparatus. In Arai, the lower cylinder 10 in use has the recording tape slide over its external surface by a given wrap angle, but the tape is not a part of the drum assembly itself, and is rather a moving element guided in its movement by the guide assembly which includes the lower cylinder.

Therefore, as amended, claim 9 clearly distinguishes over Arai by defining the drum assembly as being one for an internal drum-type imaging apparatus wherein the drum assembly defines a concave imaging surface which is more than semi-cylindrical. In Arai, the lower cylinder 10 appears to have no surface which is either a concave one or an imaging one.

Further, claim 9 distinguishes over Arai by defining the drum assembly as one made by a method including the steps of first releasably wrapping a drum skin partially around a generally cylindrical mandrel and then fixedly attaching a drum to the rear face of the drum skin while the drum skin is wrapped around the mandrel. In applying Arai to claim 9, the Examiner has taken the recording tape 11 of Arai as being the "skin" of claim 9, but it will be noted that in Arai the tape 11 is merely guided by the lower cylinder and does not become fixedly attached to the lower cylinder or to any other part of the guide mechanism.

Still further, claim 9 distinguishes over Arai by defining the steps of removing the drum and attached drum skin from the mandrel by first generating a fluid bearing between the front face of the drum skin and the mandrel to separate the drum skin from the mandrel, and then moving the drum and attached drum skin relative to the mandrel in a direction parallel to the mandrel axis.

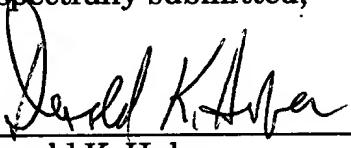
Since Arai has no teaching or suggestion of attaching a drum skin and a drum to one another while the drum skin and the drum are positioned on a cylindrical mandrel, the combination of Bryant with Arai adds nothing of significance since in Arai there is no assembly to be removed from a mandrel. Further, in the quoted portion (column 9, lines 29-68) of Bryant, there is no disclosure of generating a fluid bearing between a mandrel and an assembly formed on the mandrel. Instead, in Bryant pressurized air is added to the portion 65 of the carcass material for the purpose of aiding in the shaping of the carcass material into a tire while the carcass material remains fixed to the tire building apparatus; and there is no air bearing formed between the carcass material and the tire building apparatus to facilitate removal of the carcass from the tire building apparatus.

All of claims 10-17 are dependent, directly or indirectly, on claim 9 and therefore distinguish over the references in the same way as explained above for claim 9, as well as by virtue of the additional limitations clearly set forth in claims 10-17.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that this application is now clearly in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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